AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 17, as follows:

In order to reproduce the original sound faithfully, the basic resonant frequency must be adjusted at 500 [Hz] or less. So, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~2-127448~~ 4-22300 discloses the technique in which the carbon plate (expansion graphite plate) is used as the vibration plate to improve the frequency characteristic. Also, it is known that the frequency characteristic is improved to some extent by forming the vibration plate into an ellipse.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 24, as follows:

Next, the frequency - sound pressure characteristic of the conventional piezoelectric acoustic element is described. The conventional piezoelectric acoustic element uses the piezoelectric element as the vibration source, as described above. As the piezoelectric material of the piezoelectric element, ceramic materials and the like with a small loss of mechanical energy during elastic vibration are usually used. Therefore, very high sound pressure can be obtained near the resonance point, however, the irregular frequency - sound pressure characteristic with a large amplitude change will occur in the frequency range except the resonance point. When the amplitude change of the frequency - sound pressure characteristic is large, only sound at a specific frequency is emphasized, and therefore sound quality will deteriorate. So, Japanese Utility Model Laid-Open No. 63-81495 discloses a technique in which a piezoelectric vibrator is buried in flexible foam to flatten the frequency - sound pressure characteristic. Also, Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~60-208399~~ 58-8000 discloses a technique that flattens the frequency - sound pressure characteristic by supporting the outer edge of a thin acoustic element by foam formed with an adhesive layer on the surface thereof.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14, as follows:

[Patent Document 1] Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~2-127448~~ 4-22300

[Patent Document 2] Japanese Utility Model Laid-Open No. 63-81495

[Patent Document 3] Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~60-208399~~ 58-8000

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21, as follows:

The above problems of (1), (2) can be solved by using the technique disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~2-127448~~ 4-22300 or by using the ellipse vibration plate, however, the sound pressure characteristic will significantly deteriorate. Also, according to the techniques disclosed in Japanese Utility Model Laid-Open No. 63-81495 and Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. ~~60-028399~~ 58-8000, the frequency - sound pressure characteristic can be flatten to some extent. However, the frequency - sound pressure characteristic cannot be sufficiently improved to such a sufficient extent that the original sound can be reproduced. Also, it causes deterioration in the sound pressure characteristic as a whole. As described above, it is difficult to realize a piezoelectric acoustic element that has an excellent frequency characteristic and frequency sound pressure characteristic while retaining a compact size and featuring low power consumption.

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